Wilshire Topics
635 South Western Ave.
Wilshire District
Los Angeles

May seventh 1 9 3 0

Dear Miss Hawkins :--

On thinking it over,I decided it would be better to give you in rather more intelligent form the data relative to Santa Barbara and vicinity that we discussed this afternoon.

Santa Barbara --- The De la Guerra house,completed about 1828 by Don Jose Antonio De la Guerra,commandante of the Presidio of Santa Barbara.It was in the main room,-- left center,between the door in the center of the house and the archway on the left -- that the Californian chiefs surrendered to Fremont when he arrived unexpectedly with his forces December 26,1846.The taking of the town was bloodless because all the ablebodied men were in Gaviota Pass,waiting to roll rocks down on the Americans,thus annihilating the column.

The plaza between the house and the Daily News building at the opposite end,is De la Guerra Plaza.Here some of Fremont's troops camped. In the 'Forties and 'Fifties ,bullfights,decidedly denatured,were held in the Plaza.The horns of the lone bull who starred every Saturday afternoon were heavily padded,and to one horn was attached a bag of silver,totaling about $25,to the one who could get him.No one was ever hurt,though many had their pride hurt by being chased out of the arena.

It was in front of the De la Guerra where they had established their head quarters in 1847 that they placed a cannon as a symbol of authority. Some mischievous Californians stole the cannon one night,and the American commander at Monterey decreed that $500 should be paid for it .The money was raised by forcible levy on the inhabitants.

By the way,the street on which the Lobero theatre is located is East Canon Perdido,and the name comes from the above incident,since Canon Perdido is Spanish for "Lost Cannon."

As you face the theatre,"Cuati" Caeeillo's home is at the left and rear.This is the house in which Judge Joaquin Carrillo was captured by Fremont and his Walla Walla Indians.Several prominent citizens were taken as hostages by the Americans,but were not injured and were soon released. Remember that the house is reached from the alley directly in rear of the theatre ,running in--toward the left -- from Anacapa street.

Clarence Mattei is the artist of whom I told you.He has a studio in Santa Barbara. A good friend of mine who paints great skyscrapers and other modern and sophisticated things in which few of us can see beauty,and who does them charmingly,is Colin Campbell Cooper.He will be glad to see you and show you his work.You may,if you wish,use my name.

On the rear part of the site now occupied by the Bank of Italy at State and Ca non Perdido stood the adobe saloon and home of Jose

Lobero,famed in the early days as a musician and theatre director.It is for him Lobero theatre is named. The rear of the bank a block up,the County National at State and Carrillo,Fremont had luncheon with Don Juan Hill,on the day of the capture of the town. It was one of a group of three one of which still stands.That is a few feet further down Carrillo,and is occupied as a curio shop.

If you desire any information,Mr.Thomas M.Storke,owner of the Daily News ; Miss Litti Paulding,society editor; Mr.Harrison Ryon,of Schauer & Ryon,lawyers,San Marcos Building;or Mr. Starr W.Gruner,with A.J.Watkins, real estate,will be glad to be of service.Also Mrs.Roy Churchill,who runs a jewelry and gift shop on the Anacapa street side of the De la Guerra Studios.All these are personal friends and it would help to mention my name.

The all-day trip. -- Turn off the Coast Highway about five or six miles north of Santa Barbara ,just above the County Farm (the road is signed) and go over San Marcos Pass.On the summit of the pass is a monument marked with a bronze tablet to Fremont. Visit Santa Ynez,over in the Santa Ynez Valley,the town established by the Bishop of Monterey and San Diego about 55 years ago,so that the College Rancho,owned by the Church, might be cultivated by people who would live conveniently in the village. There were many thousands of acres in the rancho.The lots sold for $15 apiece,with an extra one thrown in for each purchaser.

Los Olivos village is next.It is the home of Mattei's Tavern,with Gustave,the 75 year old bellhop,who has been on the job 41 years.It was established 42 years ago as a stage station. The early efforts of Clarence Mattei -- Washington Crossing the Delaware and others -- which won Clarence,as a boy of 12 an art education and several years' residence in Paris. These came from a wealthy woman who was interested because of the undoubted talent shown in the crude drawings.

Leave Mattei's behind you on the left -- be sure to eat there -- and within a quarter of a mile or so, turn right across the narrow gauge railroad into Foxen Canyon. Midway ,a distance of several miles,where the road makes two right-angled turns about 200 yards apart,rather ,100 yards or so beyond the second turn,was the home of Don Julian Foxen.It has long since disappeared.A few miles beyond,on the left,is the monument to Foxen and Fremont,a large boulder with a bronze tablet. Then,on the left, not very far,is a clearing of several acres in extent,with a weather beaten and deserted house and barn .Here is where the creek curves away from the road toward the hills.This was Fremont's camp.

By the way,BEFORE going there,drive a few miles straight ahead to the village of Solvang (settled by Danes,and Solvang means "Sunshine") and see the famed Santa Ynez Mission.But be sure to retrace your route to

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go through Foxen Canyon. At the upper end of the Canyon,on the right, on top of a hill,is the deserted Sisquoc church.In the churchyard,back by the fence ,beneath a shaft of marble simulating the mast of a ship, Don Julian Foxen lies.It is appropriate,for he was originally an English sea-captain.

By the way,stop at Miramar,four or five miles below Santa Barbara, a fine old beach hotel which was,long years ago,the Doulton ranch.Bob Doulton,one of the owners,is a friend of mine .He will show you the pine tree just a few hundred yards below which was mark for making a landfall for Santa Barbara.It is mentioned as the loading place by Dana in "Two Years Before the Mast." Although they also loaded part of the cargo in the present roadstead.

I must tell you a story relative to Foxen and the present Miramar.Just toward Santa Barbara from the hotel,close to the beach,was the killing place where cattle were driven to be slaughtered for their hides and tallow.These were articles of commerce for ships like the one Dana sailed on.

One day Don Julian Foxen with two body servants,Indians,was visiting the killing place,and saw a great iron kettle,eight feet high and five feet in diameter,used for trying out the tallow.He bought it ,because he wanted it for boiling soap for Santa Ynez and other Missions.He said curtly to the Indians, "Take it home," and rode off on his horse.

Now,there was no use loading it on a ship,because the Foxen home was far inland;there were no trucks or railroads or wagons large enough to contain it.So the Indians started rolling it.Santa Barbara laughed at them as they toiled through the town. In places above,along the present Coast highway,they had to let it go bounding down one steep arroyo after another,and push it toilsomely up the other side,just escaping with their lives when it got away and came plunging back at them.Occasionally they tried the sands,and it would be engulfed by the tide.Then they watched their chance to dig it out again and proceed.

They slept in it ;they built cooking fires in the mouth of it during rainy weather.At long last,they rolled it triumphantly into the Foxen patio,EIGHT MONTHS after they started!

Very sincerely yours,

Michael J. Phillips

Michael J.Phillips ,Editor,
WILSHIRE TOPICS

312 East Twelfth street.